



## **Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

5 October 2015

### **Commissioners Present**

Darryl Berger  
Jeremy DeBlieux  
Brian Furness  
Lary Hesdorffer  
Kim Rosenberg  
Sal Sunseri  
Robert Watters

### **Commissioners Absent**

Al Groos  
Mia Matassa  
Jim Oliver  
Steve Pettus  
Ted Young

### **Guests**

Emily Remington, Executive Director

#### I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Kim Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 2:09pm. Emily Remington called the roll.

#### III. Chairman's Comments

Kim welcomed attendees and reminded them about signing in on the public comment sheet.

#### IV. Executive Director Report

Emily reminded attendees of the public forum for the French Quarter Economic Development District that FQMD is co-hosting on October 6 at the Omni Royal hotel. She also asked Commissioners to review the FQMD website and to provide feedback to her on what more information is needed.

#### V. Treasurer's Report

Jeremy asked Commissioners to look at the reports he was submitting for September. He mentioned that Emily had solicited bids for the FQMD audit, and he would review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board. The Board will decide which firm to select and will authorize the expenditure. FQMD will need an audit this year to comply with state law due to its increase in revenue in 2015.

#### VI. Proposed FQMD Officers: 2016

Kim told Commissioners that the foregoing Board members have agreed to serve in those capacities if they are nominated: Jim Oliver, Chair; Mia Matassa, Vice Chair; Brian Furness, Secretary; and Jeremy DeBlieux, Treasurer.

## VII. Proposed Committee Membership

Kim said that during the past couple of months, co-chairs have been asked to propose committee memberships, but the incoming Board Chair may want to make adjustments to committee membership composition. Additionally, FQMD still awaits appointments from three entities due to a vacancy and office and two other terms of office expiring, so committee membership lists will be proposed at November's meeting. Jeremy asked if there were attendance records for each committee meeting. Gail said that co-chairs were asked to review committee membership lists, and participation in previous meetings was considered when they put together their proposed lists. Robert indicated that it is rare to have a quorum present at current committee meetings. He suggested that FQMD keep its committees small, because having a quorum is very important. Lary asked for clarification that none of this will be effective until January. Kim concurred. Lary said that the presumption is that Commissioners are preplanning for the 2016 calendar year.

## VIII. Status of CEAs and other related matters

Kim indicated that there was no change or update at this time.

## IX. Report by Chairs, Infrastructure Committee

Gail presented information about a Sewerage and Water Board (SWB) pilot program to provide storm drain protection. Scott Finney and Travis Martin from SWB's Environmental Affairs department presented additional information. Robert asked if after the sewage drains were clean, would there be adequate flow in the French Quarter? Scott said that they weren't sure. Jeremy asked for clarification about the drains: they would keep trash out, but allow water to rain? Scott said that during rain events, material will not flow in, but water will. Scott recognizes that it then becomes a sanitation issue, and they had met with the Department of Public Works to discuss.

Robert asked if the drains were only going to be placed on Bourbon Street. Travis said that they are trying to get to 30 drains all over French Quarter targeted problems, as indicated by catch basins that need cleaning often. Jeremy asked if it included the 700 and 800 blocks of Royal. Gail said no.

Kim asked about rodent abatement issues, given the anticipated accumulation of garbage. Travis said they had been coordinating with that department (mosquito control).

## X. Report by Chairs, Security Task Force

Bob presented information on the French Quarter Task Force and Bourbon Patrol. Robert asked if the CVB had committed to matching more funds. Bob said that his understanding was that \$75,000/month was for all supplemental patrols. Brian asked if NOPD was really supplanting patrols. Bob said that it wasn't possible to get a really solid answer, but NOPD shifts resources away from the French Quarter now. Brian said that we want to be sure these are additional resources. Bob said they provide an enhanced police presence.

Jeremy asked about a succession plan for all of Bob's tremendous efforts. Darryl said that if the EDD passes, additional resources will be committed.

Kim asked what the task forces were doing about vagrants. Bob said that they're moving them along. 70% of app calls are related to the vagrancy issues. Kim asked if patrols were proactive about removing sleeping people from the sidewalks. Bob said yes.

## XI. New Business

None.

## XII. Future meetings

The next meeting will be November 2 from 2-4pm.

### XIII. Adjournment

Kim asked for a motion to adjourn at 3:24pm. Many members moved and/or seconded. The meeting was adjourned.